The Number of farmers as on 1.10.1991 in Andhra Pradesh from whom the premium towards Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) has been collected, is 5,07,642. The corresponing figures for kharif 1989 and Kharif 1990 are 7,20,593 and 1,95,568, respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Gas found in Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery Basin

3461. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas has been found in Krishna, Godavari and in Cauvery basin long ago;

(b) if so, the reasons for not exploiting the gas by the government;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the government to utilise this gas and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some foreign companies are also interested to collaborate in this work;

(e) if so, whether the government propose to accept the assistance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Gas is already being exploited in these regions. ONGC have laid a pipeline between Tanuku and Kavvur. Also GAIL is constructing a pipeline from Tatipaka to Kakinada. Available gas in the region has already been committed to downstream users.

(d) to (f). Four blocks in Krishna-Godavari offshore basin and one block in Cauvery offshore have been offered for exploration for oil and gas to foreigen and domestic companies under the Fourth Round of Bidding.

Royalty rate on coal

3462. SHRI VILASRAO N A G N T H R A O GUNDEWAR:
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coal in Maharashtra;

(b) the rate of royalty/cess on coal, State-wise;

(c) whether any representation from Members of parliament and legislative Assembly has been received by the Union Government to determine the royalty on coal on the basis of its price instead of its weight;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to increase the rate of royalty on coal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the

time by which the royalty rates are likely to be revised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Production of coal in Maharashtra for the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 (April to November) was as under:

Year	Production (Million tonnes)
1989-90	16.34
1990-91	16.85
1991-92	10.78

(April to November)

(b) Gradewise rates of royalty on coal prevalent in various State are as follows:

Grade	All States except West Bengal, Assam & Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Assam & West Bengal
	Rs. Per Tonne	
Steel Grade I, II & Handpicked	150.00	7.00
Washery Grade I	150.00	7.00
Washery Grade II & III	120.00	6.50
Washery Grade IV	75.00	5.50
Semi-Coking Grade I & II	120.00	6.50
Non-Coking Grade A/B	120.00	6.50
Non-Coking Grade C	75.00	5.50
Non-Coking Grade D & E	45.00	4.50
Non-Coking Grade F/G	25.00	2.500
All Grade		70.00

Rates of taxes and cesses which were being levied by the State Governments on coal are annexed. Most of the cesses have been struck down by Courts. According to available information cesses are being collected in the States of West Bengal and Assam.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Study Group constituted to examine the question of revision of rates of royalty on coal did not favour the determination of royalty on the basis of price. The rates of royalty have been fixed after considering the recommendations of the Study Group.

(e) to (g). The rates of royalty on coal

have been enhanced w.e.f. 1.8.1991. Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 bars enchancement of the rate within a period of 3 years.

STATEMENT

Rates of Taxes and Cesses on Coal levied by States

1.	West Bengal	Rural Employment and production Cess	35% of pithead price w.e.f. 1.4.83
		Primary Education Cess	5% of pithead price
		Public Works and Road Cess	Re.1/- per tonne
		Asansol mines Board of Health Cess	Re. 0.40 per tonne
	In addition West Bengal have introduced a turnover tax not realisable from consumers of Coal.		
2.	Bihar	Cess on Coal	40% of pithead price w.e.f. 16.12.87
		Cess on royalty	5% en royalty
		Jhgaria mines Board of Health	Rs. 3.50 per tonne
		Development Cess	Rs. 4.00 per tonne (on coke)
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Mineral Area Development Cess	125% of royalty

		Storage Cess	Rs. 5 per tonne
		SADA	Re. 0.10 per tonne of road despatches

Recently Madhya Pradesh Government had also introduced a land revenue on all the mining land at the rate of Rs. 5000/- per hectare. This has, however been struck down by the High Court.

4.	Orissa	Mineral Area Development Cess	20% on pithead price [illegible]
5.	Maharashtra	Cess on royalty	10% of royalty
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Mineral Revenue Tax District Board Cess	Rs. 15.00 per tonne Rs. 1.25 per tonne
7.	Assam	Tax on Coal	Rs. 100/- per tonne